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SOURCE Zeri i Popullit.TO EXPLOIT DOMESTIC MAGNESITE

Last year a geological expedition from the Museum of Natural Sciences discovered a deposit of magnesite at Bulcar in the Gramsh District. The mineral is very pure and is well-suited for use in the refractory industry and elsewhere.

In the absence of a furnace, no research is being done on adapting this mineral for use as a refractory material. However, with a little effort, such a furnace can be obtained. There is a great need for magnesite brick in many industrial and mining enterprises.

Recently a serious shortage of zinc oxide has been felt in the rubber factory in Durres. Research chemists of the Ministry of Industry are experimenting with magnesium oxide obtained from magnesite, to replace zinc oxide in processing rubber. Results have been favorable and indicate that such a substitution is feasible.

Because of the urgent need in the rubber factory, a team of geologists from the Museum of Natural Sciences and a chemist recently went to Bulcar to analyze the deposit qualitatively, and to conduct experimental work and extraction as well as prospecting.

In a relatively short time, a series of mining operations was initiated, including two ditches over 30 meters long, three trenches and six excavations in different directions, and a calculation of the percentage of mineral contained in the ore.

About quintals of magnesite were extracted. Most of it was first quality. It was carried out to the highway and dumped there.

The Institute of Sciences is engaged in research with a view to substituting domestic magnesite for materials that have had to be imported thus far. The Institute also conducted similar research on kaolin.

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